

A SPECIALIZED 2-DAY SEMINAR:

CULTURE, RELIGION, AND ISLAM



USMC CAMP LEJEUNE

Dr. Thomas Connell, Dr. Culture®, again joins forces with Interlink's premier Middle East authority providing up-to-date information on understanding contrasting US -- Islamic religious and cultural components.

Day One: One Full-Day Event
Day Two: Two Separate Training Events

Day One: 0800-1600
Audience:
USMC Religious Ministry Teams



**CROSS CULTURAL
PROGRAMMING AND
CONTAMINATION - 0800-1000**

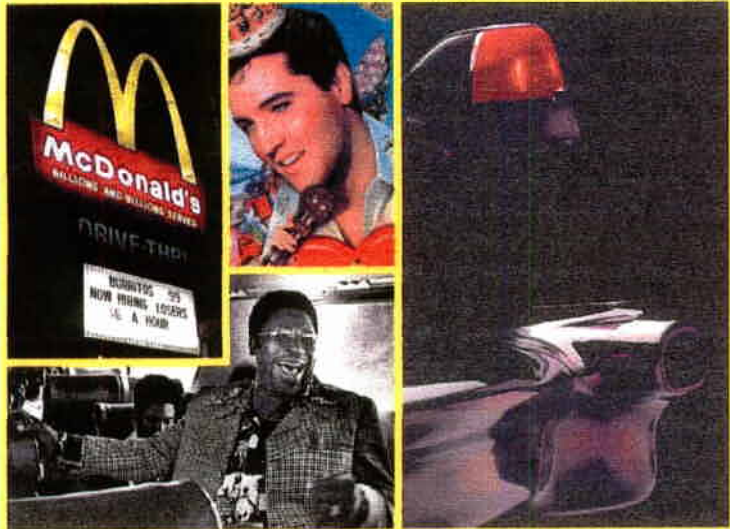
...by Dr. Thomas Connell, Vice President of Interlink Consulting Services. To accurately analyze cultural and geo-POL/MIL issues of Islamic regions, North Americans must understand their *own* cultural background, value system, and the effect on interpretation and policymaking.

Moreover, developing intelligence plans, anticipating actions, etc., all rest on accurate data analysis free of Cross-Cultural contamination. This presentation is today's lead instructional *entrée*; focusing on "Cultural Programming" of Americans and other cultures and the impact of this different programming on day-to-day interaction between North Americans and Muslims.

This training is of great benefit for not only those with limited Cross-Cultural experience but also those well-traveled organizational "veterans." This is an excellent initial orientation and powerfully complimented by the subsequent, tightly focused, religious, cultural and instructional analysis provided by the internationally recognized Dr. Margaret Nydell who builds on Connell's Cross Cultural "info-structure."

Culture, Religion, and Islam
A Two-Day, 3 Presentation, Seminar for Camp Lejeune
16 & 17 July 2002

Day One: Part Two



CONTRASTING US-ISLAM CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS COMPONENTS – 1000-1600

Interlink brings one of the country's most recognized Middle East authorities to this

seminar. Dr. Margaret Nydell, author of *Understanding Arabs: A Guide For Westerners* and fifteen other books, is a visiting professor of Arabic at Georgetown University and Director of the USIA Summer Arabic Program in Tangier, Morocco, former Director of Arabic Materials Development at Georgetown University, Visiting Professor of Arabic at John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and the West Point military academy and was the 8-year director of the US State Department's Foreign Service Institute (FSI) Advanced Arabic Language and FSI Field School in Tunis, Tunisia.

Nydell is a regular trainer at FSI's Middle East Area Studies as well as the FBI, National Council for US-Arab Relations, Mobil, and many other government agencies and international businesses. Her presentation focuses on four



Culture, Religion, and Islam
A Two-Day, 3 Presentation, Seminar for Camp Lejeune
16 & 17 July 2002

components:

An orientation on Islam -- a brief look into the historical events and ensuing development of Islam. Emphasis here is on providing an understanding of Islam's impact on Muslim daily life and its effect on US-Muslim interaction with Muslim counterparts in or out of the US.

Tightening focus on US-Islamic historical, cultural and religious components -- understanding the effect of Islamic history on Islamic regions is critical in understanding the "Why Behind The What" of Islam. For instance, Nydell discusses the importance of understanding the Sunni/Shia split. To do so, the audience must look to the Shia Shahadah or declaration of faith which states:

"There is no god but Allāh, Muhammad is the Messenger of Allāh, Ali is the Friend of Allāh. The Successor of the Messenger of Allāh And his first Caliph."

This is a perfect guide to understanding the Sunni/Shia split that still holds tremendous ramifications today. The term Shia or Shi'ite derives from a shortening of Shiat Ali or partisans of Ali who is the central figure at the origin of the Shia / Sunni split occurring in the decades immediately following the death of the Prophet Mohammed in 632. Sunnis regard Ali as the fourth and last of the "rightly guided caliphs." Shias feel that Ali should have been the first caliph and that the caliphate should pass down only to direct descendants of Mohammed.



Nydell provides the "mental tools" to understanding the contrast between the two ideologies of Sunni and Shia Islam. Can a parallel be drawn between

*Culture, Religion, and Islam
A Two-Day, 3 Presentation, Seminar for Camp Lejeune
16 & 17 July 2002*

Sunni/Shia and Catholics/Protestants? Additional practical helpful information is also found here such as recognizing cultural/demographic cues and using this information to your advantage, i.e., appearance; correlating beards, headdresses, etc., to either Sunni or Shia Islam and the basic assumptions you may make about both sects theological orientation based upon appearance.

۞ *Islamic Cultural Judo* -- how to use the Islamic cultural structure to your advantage; understanding individual vs. group Muslim Personality, Society and Shame and professional and personal Etiquette issues. For instance, understanding the Islamic Arab name “system” is incredibly helpful in understanding much about your Islamic counterparts; what names are Christian, what names are Muslim, which are Sunni? Which are Shia?

ξ *And, if this wasn't enough information*, Nydell also emphasizes relevant gender issues found in and out of Islamic cultures. These male-female concerns can be delicate and and at the same time critical to successful US-Islamic interaction. This is especially important considering a major portion of DOD programs involve professional American women functioning in and out of the Islamic regions. This is an often-overlooked element in regional/cultural orientation that must be thoroughly understood by today's professional American government woman and especially important for their American *male* co-workers to understand the additional issues their female partners must face-- and master.

Nydell's presentation covers the gamut of relevant cultural/Islamic issues. If time allows, he will follow this information with a Q/A session regarding recent events in the Middle East and 9/11 -- the most recent attack on America, terrorist groups and Islamic Extremism.



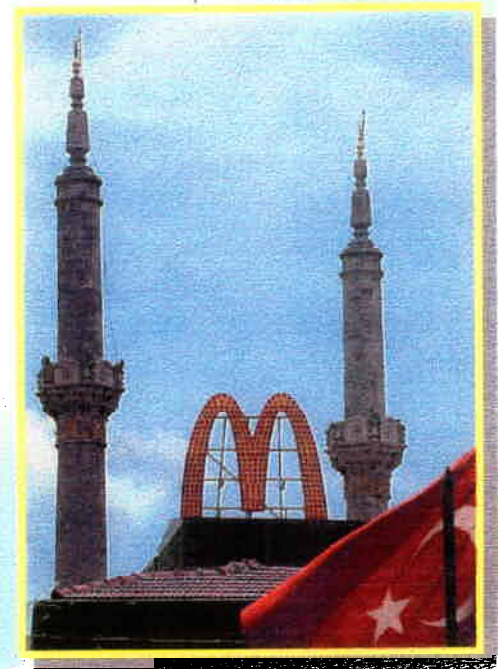
*Culture, Religion, and Islam
A Two-Day, 3 Presentation, Seminar for Camp Lejeune
16 & 17 July 2002*

Day Two Sessions:

Audience: Marines At Camp Lejeune

**Session 1: 0800 –1200
&
Session 2: 1200 –1600**

Both sessions are 4 hours and provide the same information for the two different audiences anticipated for this second day. These are compressed versions of much of the information presented in the first day's presentation but offers less specific Islamic component information and more specific Cross-Cultural and Regional information to appeal to these different audiences. Nydell discusses Islam in such a way that attendees will have a clear view of Islam and its effect on the cultures embracing it and how easily the dynamics of these cultures are misinterpreted by Americans, which in turn, detracts from our interpersonal relationships with Muslims -- which are so highly valued in the Middle East.



*Culture, Religion, and Islam
A Two-Day, 3 Presentation, Seminar for Camp Lejeune
16 & 17 July 2002*